

A SPECIAL



**21st
ANNIVERSARY
PUBLICATION**

**SOUTH MELBOURNE
SOCCER CLUB**

(FOUNDED 1959)



MARCH, 1980



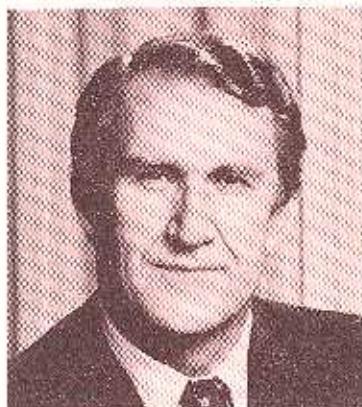
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PRIME MINISTER

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Mr Malcolm Fraser
Prime Minister of Australia
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27 February 1980

ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE FOR SOUTH MELBOURNE SOCCER CLUB

Australia is now emerging as a force to be reckoned with in the international soccer arena. Our national team has acquitted itself well against international teams both at home and overseas. There is a new enthusiasm and spirit in Australian soccer.

In no small part this new-found prominence is due to Australia's developing multi-cultural outlook. Soccer was once primarily the football code of people who chose Australia as their new homeland. Of course, now, it has taken on a much wider national appeal.

This trend is not only encouraging for soccer but must surely add to the competitiveness and thus the quality of all codes of football.

Soccer, in particular, is playing a real role in the sporting life of communities throughout Australia. Soccer clubs not only provide an opportunity to play a competitive international sport but also provides an outlet for community and social activities by friends and supporters of the clubs.

I know that the South Melbourne Club has played a key role in the upgrading of the code in Australia, partly through its strong involvement with the Philips League.

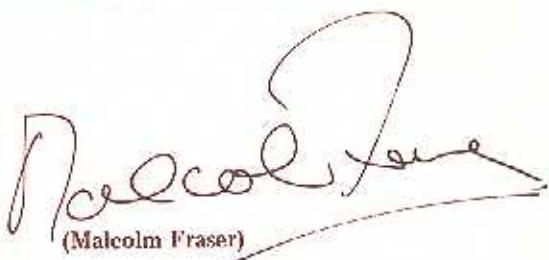
A club such as South Melbourne of course relies for its wellbeing on the immediate local community. I know the enthusiasm of the South Melbourne supporters will carry the club into the '80s — into a great new decade of growth and success.

As a team sport soccer has lessons for us all. It teaches and rewards discipline, co-operation, application and unselfishness.

These are qualities that play an important part in our day to day lives and for this reason parents can do no better than encourage their sons to take up this great international code.

I congratulate the South Melbourne Soccer Club on this wonderful 21st anniversary. In every sense the club has come of age and is playing a leadership role in developing and promoting soccer throughout Australia.

My best wishes.



(Malcolm Fraser)



A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR YOUTH, SPORT & RECREATION,
THE HONORABLE BRIAN DIXON, MP

As Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation, I wish to thank the South Melbourne Soccer Club for its dedication to promoting soccer in Australia over the past 21 years.

Your Club has played a leading role in establishing soccer as one of Victoria's most popular sports. Of all codes of football, soccer is played by more countries in the World than any other and for that reason is the only football game on the programme of the Olympic Games.

Congratulations to the players for their success, both in the State League of Victoria, and the Philips League of Australia.

Last year my Department contributed \$68,400 to soccer in Victoria, which is an indication of its commitment to a game which continues to captivate both young and old.

I feel confident that your Club will continue to attract an even greater following in the 80s. The club must be complimented on its contribution and organization to soccer which has set a fine example to all sporting clubs.

In particular I wish to congratulate all members, players and officials for the time and effort that they have given to the Club.

Yours sincerely,



BRIAN DIXON
Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation

A Message from the President of South Melbourne Soccer Club

1980 will be an important year for our club — It's our 21st Anniversary. We all sincerely trust that it will become a year to remember, just as much as 1979 was a year we all like to forget.

We must all learn that success on the field cannot come overnight. There is no instant formula for winning games. The pressure and fierce desire to win forces constant errors, which in retrospect and with some objective assessment, would not have occurred.

We must pay a tribute to the loyalty of our supporters during a very difficult year.

That's all in the past — 1980 is here, and our team is shaping into a strong combination. We are setting strong foundations with young players who will give long service to the club.

We are creating stability in our coaching by giving our coach — John Margaritis and junior coach — Cedo Cireovic two year contracts.

We are proud of our three current internationals — Allan Davidson, George Christopoulos and Stephen Blair, and wish them further success.

Over the past three years we have endeavoured to improve the facilities of the ground for our members and the public.

We firmly believe that soccer patrons are entitled to the same facilities that supporters of the other football code seem to enjoy largely at public expense. It is about time that our State and Australian federations made the appropriate noise with the authorities, so that soccer receives its fair share of public funds appropriated to the improvement of sporting grounds.

It is time that you, the soccer followers lobbied your local member — Municipal, State and Federal and make the soccer cause your own cause. We are after all, the only national code with international prospects, and we have more junior players than any other code.

At the national level the Philips League is now entering its fourth year with many unresolved problems. It has no national television coverage, essential if we are to promote the game, and has very little newspaper coverage.

The League unlike any other similar body has no direct representation at State or Federal level and consequently has no say whatsoever in the top administration of the game. Decisions affecting the League are made by people whose interests are often opposed to the interests of the League.

On what grounds can anyone justify the refusal of the Australian Soccer Federation to the National Youth League? The League can only become a viable force in the game if it can assert its claim to self government, at least in the same way as a State.

Another emerging aspect of the League is the number of clubs from New South Wales now numbering six out of a total of fourteen, and with the distinct possibility of Wollongong entering in 1981. This gives the League a distinct New South Wales character and the clubs from that State an advantage in that they have less travel than clubs from other States.

We in Victoria must campaign for the inclusion of two more clubs, even if the size of League had to be increased.

On behalf of my committee, I wish our team a successful season 1980, and ask all of you the patrons and supporters to give the club the same loyal support that you have shown over so many years.

SAM PAPASAVAS

EDITORIAL

On the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the South Melbourne Soccer Club, let us turn the spotlight on the history book of the soccer code in search of justifications for the almost intimidating blast of tradition striking the visitor of Middle Park.

Formed in 1959, from the amalgamation of Yarra Park and Hellenic, South Melbourne evolved to affirm the right to be classed among Australia's leading soccer clubs.

Reigning supreme in the Victorian competitions, achieved the unrivalled record of seven State League Championships, four Ampol Cups, a Dockerty Cup and an unofficial Australian Cup in 1976. The Club boasts the greatest soccer following in this country with crowds of between fifteen and twenty-five thousand spectators at Middle Park and Olympic Park to watch home-and-away and Cup matches during the '60's.

South Melbourne is the only Club to date to have brought to Australia, successfully and independently, a top European team namely Olympiakos from Piraeus, Greece at a cost of more than \$100,000.

Renowned Australian soccer stars, including the golden Jim McKay, took pride in associating themselves with the club while overseas famous guests performed their artistry in front of thousands of enthusiastic soccer supporters.

South also excelled in promoting the code at grassroots level. A total of fourteen junior teams, ranging from U/11 to U/16, provide the basis for the future of the club. In addition two women's teams have introduced a number of young females who until recently were the forbidden fruit of soccer.

With excitement, South Melbourne look to the Philips League. The introduction of Australia's top soccer competition coincided with South's courageous strides towards professionalism.

Ground facility improvements were top priority. Well over \$100,000 was spent for renovations in the dressing-rooms and setting up of club rooms and a new press-box.

The most revolutionary step ever taken by a Victorian Club was the appointment of a full-time General Secretary along with the establishment of a full-time office to assist and to make the administration more effective. To fulfil the plans, professional contracts were offered to a number of players for a limited period of time. This daring experiment, although unsuccessful, could have been the stepping stone for professionalization of soccer in this State if it had been attempted during a successful playing season such as the previous year, 1978, when the Club finished in the top four of the national competition.

Nonetheless, South Melbourne has always been aiming very high and will not be deterred in its efforts to become the first fully professional club in this State. The foundations certainly exist.



A Message from the Foundation President of South Melbourne Soccer Club

I am extremely happy for the occasion of the 21st Anniversary of our beloved Club.

Having been associated with South Melbourne Soccer Club most of my life, I am pleased to see the Club celebrate its 21st year in Victorian soccer.

South Melbourne has played a significant role in the progress of the sport of soccer football in the State of Victoria and Australia. I am deeply honoured and proud to have served the Club and its supporters as President, in the past, which has given me immense pleasure and satisfaction watching the Club and the code grow.

To all players, Committee members and our supporters I wish South Melbourne Soccer Club a very successful season in 1980 and for all coming seasons as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theo Marmaras".

THEO MARMARAS
Former President, South Melbourne Soccer Club.

Theo Marmaras M.B.E., J.P.

Hon. Life Member, South Melbourne Soccer Club

Trustee of Victorian Soccer Federation

Patron of Victorian Soccer Federation

Foundation President, South Melbourne Soccer Club
(1959 - 1968, 1971)

President, Victorian Soccer Federation
(1964 - 1970, 1973 - 1979)

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It is with pleasure that I have been asked to write this message to the South Melbourne Soccer Club and its loyal supporters on the occasion of the 21st Anniversary of the formation of the Club.

Since the inception of the Victorian State League in 1958, South Melbourne has achieved the highest honours in Victorian Soccer having won the State League Championships on seven (7) occasions, three of these being in succession in 1964, 1965, and 1966 and all of the major Cup Competitions.

The Club was a founder Member of the Philips Soccer League in 1977 finishing in third position in season 1978.

I feel sure that the 80s could be a decade of success for the Club as it was during the period from 1962 until 1976. This success I am sure will be achieved with the understanding of the following of the Club.

There have been many officials of South Melbourne that have given outstanding service to soccer in Victoria, but none more than its former President, who was also President of the Victorian Soccer Federation until 1979. Mr Theo Murraras, whose contribution to the game in the State and throughout Australia cannot be measured in words.

I wish the Club every success in the future.

GEORGE WALLACE.
Secretary — Victorian Soccer Federation

The Future of Soccer in Australia

by *Fred Villiers*, Channel 7 and Sunday Observer
Soccer Commentator

OPPORTUNITIES for soccer in this country are tremendous. The Australian centenary year will be celebrated in June with the big match between England and the Socceroos in Sydney . . . the youth championships next year . . . and the possibility of Australia competing for the second time in the World Cup finals.

The manner in which our soccer administrators grasp and deal with these events will determine the course of our game. They must make the best of these opportunities. They must have the imagination and foresight to take advantage of this big chance to make soccer the No. 1 football code in Australia.

South Melbourne have played their part in putting the round-ball game on the map in Victoria. They have the finest stadium outside Olympic Park. The finest dressing rooms, and the best facilities for the Press.

None of this has come by chance. It has been produced by hard work and big money. It was the big money which built the present South Melbourne team which is looking better today than it did at this time last year.

If great players like Alun Evans, Branko Buljevic, Duncan Cummings, Vince Bannon, Mendo Ristovski, Arthur Xanthopoulos, George Campbell, Sammy Wright, Alan Davidson (to name a few) fire this year, everybody will profit. There is no way South Melbourne can experience another season like they had in 1979.

From now on the use of overseas players will be restricted. This means bigger and better opportunities for local boys. There will be more chances for the Davidsons, Ristovskis and the Cummings. Home-bred talent will get its first opportunity to shine.

South Melbourne has done its share of promoting, developing, training and preparing. Now is the time to go out and reap the benefits of all this hard work. There is no reason why Australia's centenary year celebrations should not brush off on the Middle Park club.

All supporters, players and officials should get behind their president, Sam Papasavas, and make 1980 their year — the year of the blue and whites.

Time Capsule of South Melbourne Soccer Club

By Laurie Schwab

South Melbourne shares with Juventus the honor of having won the most championships in the 71-year history of top grade soccer in Victoria. South Melbourne has won seven titles in top company: in 1962, '64, '65, '66, '72, '74 and '76.

The major factors in South Melbourne's success over the years have been strong spectator support, the flow of funds that results from such support and a constant supply of top-class players, especially forwards. Star forwards who have worn the Club's colours over the years include; Con Nestoridis, Jim Armstrong, Chris Georgoussis, John Margaritis, Dave Gorrin, Mike Mandalis, Leo Damianakos, Jim Adam, John Anderson, Tony Karagiannis, Ulysses Kokkinos, Ernie Ackerley, Tony Hatzileftheriou, Jimmy Pyrgolios, Peter Ollerton, John Bedford who switched to defence later in his career and current striker, the great Alun Evans, ex Liverpool.

South Melbourne was formed late in 1959 by the amalgamation of Hellenic and Yarra Park. But the new club had no ground so a few months later it linked up with South Melbourne United which used Middle Park. The driving force behind the amalgamation was Theo Marmaras, then president of Hellenic. Mr. Marmaras went on to become South Melbourne's longest-serving president, chairman and president of the Victorian

Soccer Federation and a leading official in the Australian Soccer Federation.

Of the three clubs that formed the South Melbourne of today, South Melbourne United was the oldest and of which Labor MP Frank Crean was president. Records show that in 1933 a Royal Caledonians — South Melbourne United combination won the Harry Armstrong Cup for reserve teams. Yarra Park and Hellenic both had unsuccessful seasons in the State League . . . Hellenic finishing second last in 1958 and Yarra Park last in 1959. South Melbourne United never got higher than First Division.

The records of each of the three clubs from 1955 to 1959 were: HELLENIC: second to Wilhelmina in Third Division, 1955; third in Second Division behind Wilhelmina and Geelong, 1956; second to George Cross in Second Division, 1957; second last in State League, 1958; second last in First Division North, 1959.

YARRA PARK: third behind Brunswick and Croatia, Metropolitan South, 1955; champion of Metropolitan South, 1956; champion of Third Division, 1957; champion of First Division South, 1958; last in State League, 1959.

SOUTH MELBOURNE UNITED: third behind Slavia and Prahran in Second Division South, 1955; fifth in Second Division, 1956; third behind



The South Melbourne Premiership side of 1966 with Greek star forward and coach Con Nestoridis standing first from left.



From left to right: D. Cummings, H. Andrews, J. Armstrong, S. Walker, J. Kennedy, P. Ollerton, M. Hatzimanouel, C. Kalifatidis, Coach: M. Poulakakis, J. Daperis, J. Alexiou, P. Bourne, A. Xanthopoulos, J. Batticciotto.

George Cross and Hellenic in Second Division, 1957; second to Yarra Park in First Division South, 1958; fourth in First Division, 1959. Yarra Park's 1959 season was a disaster. Suffering defeats of 0-13 to J.U.S.T., 0-12 to Wilhelmina and Slavia and 0-8 to Hakoah and Moreland, it won only one game and finished with a points total of four . . . seven behind Geelong.

The amalgamation with South Melbourne United, put Des and Bill Hamilton, both Federation officials, on to the committee of the new South Melbourne Hellas. Des became deputy chairman to Marmaras and Bill became treasurer. Jim Divolis was secretary and others on the committee were: Con Antoniadis, Vlasis Brokoulias, Jim Dimitriadis, Peter Dimitropoulos, George Lakatas, Evangelos Ladas and Jack Mitchell. This union yielded not only Middle Park and a number of classy players, but also gave the new club a strong junior section. South Melbourne United has been fielding juniors since the mid-fifties and had won the 1957 under 15 championships.

1960, its first year of competition, South Melbourne won the First Division North championship by an incredible 12 points. The club was undefeated that year drawing only once . . . 3-3.



South Melbourne defender, acrobat Jim Mantarakis (No. 3) in a match against J.U.S.T. At left is Schumacher of J.U.S.T. and in the background the great Mladenovic.

with Corio. It collected 35 points and scored 79 goals to 11. Its players that season included George Papadopoulos, Peter Tzaponis, Chris Poulos, John Margaritis (now coach), Savas Saliambasidis (ex-Panathinaikos), Harry Vamvakas, Tony Karagiannis, Jim Mantarakis, John Hadzigeorgiou, Chris Geogousis and Stefan Fortumanos. South Melbourne had so much talent that year that it also won the reserve grade from Coburg and Sunshine City and reached the semi-finals of the under 14 J.J. Liston Cup before being beaten by the strong North Sunshine 8-2. South Melbourne also reached the semi-finals of the Dockerty Cup and Armstrong Cup, before going down 0-2 and 0-3 to Hakoah in the respective competitions.

The following year, 1961, South Melbourne managed fifth place in the State League which was a good result at its first attempt. The ladder in order that year, was: Polonia, George Cross, Wilhelmina, Hakoah, South Melbourne, Slavia,

J.U.S.T., Melbourne, Juventus, Moreland, Richmond and Box Hill. In the Armstrong Cup, South Melbourne lost the semi-final 1-4 to Wilhelmina which went on to win the trophy.

Manny Poulakakis now the senior statesman of Australian soccer coaches came from Egypt to coach South Melbourne in 1962 and he led the Club to its first State League championship. The top four at the end of the season looked like this:

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sth Melbourne	15	2	5	51	21	32
Juventus	13	4	5	48	23	30
Wilhelmina	11	8	3	54	28	30
J.U.S.T.	12	5	5	34	26	29

In 1963 South Melbourne recruited Victorian representative Tommy Anderson from George Cross and John Anderson from Hakoah. Tommy Anderson now is a prominent soccer writer for the "Daily Mirror" in Sydney and for the national weekly "Soccer Action". But despite these star



South Melbourne's brilliant inside-forward John Margaritis slides in front of a Croatia opponent. In the background is Ernie Ackerley. Margaritis was later to become coach of South Melbourne, West Adelaide and Heidelberg United and back again as coach in 1980.

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1980 SEASON

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CLUB S

SOUTH MELBOURNE

COLOURS: Royal Blue & White

- 1 Peter LAUMETS
- 2 Vince BANNON
- 3 Alan DAVIDSON
- 4 Frank MUNRO
- 5 Arthur XANTHOPOULOS
- 6 Billy ROGERS
- 7 Sammy WRIGHT
- 8 George CHRISTOPOULOS
- 9 Steve KAKANTONIS
- 10 Alun EVANS
- 11 Branko BULJEVIC
- 12 Chris KALIFATIDIS
- 13 Mendo RISTOVSKI
- 14 Bertie LUTTON
- 15 Duncan CUMMINGS
- 16 George CAMPBELL
- 17 Kiri KYRIAKOULEAS
- 18 Steve BLAIR
- 20 Louie TSIGARAS

COACH: John MARGARITIS

LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA SEASON, ROUND 1



vs. HEIDELBERG UNITED
JIM — SUNDAY 9th MARCH, 1980

SQUADS

HEIDELBERG UNITED

COLOURS: *Gold & Black*

- 23 Yakka BANOVIC
- 1 Jeff OLVER
- 2 Arthur McMILLAN
- 3 Jim TANSEY
- 4 John YZENDOORN
- 6 James ROONEY
- 7 Theo SELEMIDIS
- 8 James CAMPBELL
- 9 James PATON
- 10 George PAVLIDIS
- 11 Andrew BOUZIKAS
- 12 Charlie YANCOS
- 14 Pat BANNON
- 16 Gary COLE

COACHES: Pat BANNON
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UMBRO

*Congratulates South Melbourne Soccer Club
on its
21st Anniversary*



Striker Ernie Ackerley had two senior games with Manchester United and starred with South Melbourne in the sixties.

recruits, the season was not a successful one, with South Melbourne finishing sixth behind J.U.S.T., Polonia, George Cross, Slavia and Wilhelmina. Its points total of 21 was the lowest yet.

Success almost came in the pre-season Ampol Cup competition where Polonia beat South Melbourne 1-0 in the final. John Margaritis was top scorer that season with seven but he was way behind the league's top marksman Eddy Jankowski of Polonia who scored 21. More great players were recruited in 1964 and South Melbourne returned to winning form. Andreas Roussis from Greek First Division club Apollon moved into the team at centre-half, Peter Tsitsos took over in goal and won State selection and winger Jim Adam became one of the club's all-time greats. Ernie Ackerley also joined that year. He played two senior games

with Manchester United before moving to Blackpool and finally to Fourth Division club Barrow before coming to Australia. Fitzroy-Alexander's goal keeper Sam Service (who later went to West Adelaide) switched to South Melbourne and winger Jimmy Pyrgolios (now coach of Western Suburbs) was imported from Panathinaikos.

With the reinforcements came another championship. This time South Melbourne won from George Cross, J.U.S.T. and Juventus. In the Dockerty Cup, the club was again beaten in the semi-finals, this time by Slavia 2-1 after extra time. A clearance finally arrived for winger Leo Damianakos of Creek Second Division club Kalamata in 1965. Damianakos had arrived the previous year but had sat on the bench for the entire season. The 1965 team was made up of John Anderson, John Bedford, Stratos Kalageros, Andreas Roussis, Sam Service, John Margaritis, Jim Pyrgolios, Boulos Kamboropoulos, Ernie Ackerley, Mike Mandalis and Leo Damianakos. These players gave South Melbourne its third State League championship.

Con Nestorides was the greatest centre-forward Greece has produced since the war and he started with Greek national team and with AEK. When he joined South Melbourne at the age of 37 in



Jim Pyrgolios (left) who scored more than 100 goals for South Melbourne challenges another great goal-scorer, Mike Jurechi, of Polonia.



Champions of 1965 standing from left: Anderson, Bedford, Kalogiros, Rousis, Service, Mantarakis; Front: Pyrgolios, Kambouropoulos, Acharley, Mandatis, Damianakos.

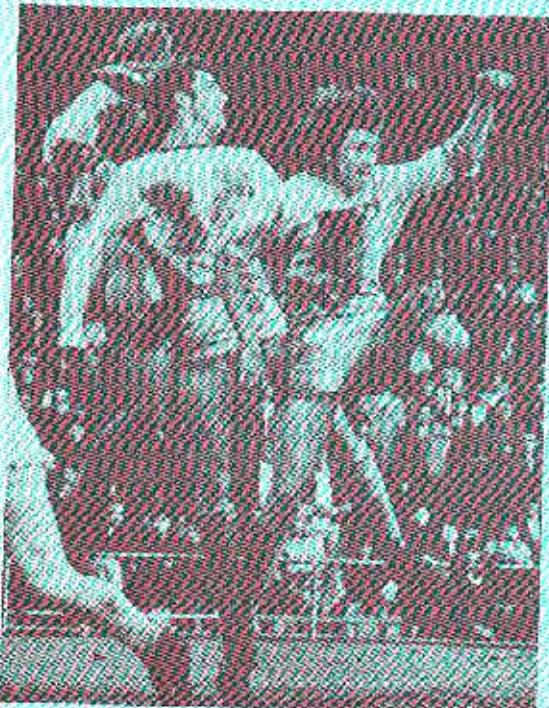
1966, crowds doubled immediately. With Nestorides captain-coach and with David Kelly and Victorian representative David High joining from Slavia, South Melbourne again won the championship this time finishing two points clear of Slavia with Hakoah and Melbourne in third and fourth positions. David Gorrie who was to go on to represent the State, joined from England that year and became a consistent goalscorer for South Melbourne.

But 1967 stopped the club's run of successes. After a tough season the team finished fourth behind Melbourne, Juventus and Croatia and lost the Ampol Cup final to Slavia. Ten Greek players were imported for 1968 but only three of them were up to standard. By the season's end all the imports had returned home. However, the appointment of top coach Lou Brocic, who was later to coach Kuwait's national team, paid off and South Melbourne finished in third place behind Croatia and Polonia and won the 1969 Ampol Cup by beating Croatia 2-1 with Frank Micic scoring the first goal and Damianakos converting a penalty. Micic, the long serving J.U.S.T. star had switched to South Melbourne but was to return to J.U.S.T. after only one year. Another five Greek imports came in 1969 and again the committee was to regret it. Taylas played one and a half games, and Kalogiros made a few appearances, but Asimomitis, Panagiotis and Panagiotopoulos were not good enough. All five returned to Greece at the end of the season. South Melbourne finished in seventh place with only 21 points, behind

Footscray, Juventus, Wilhelmina, Croatia, Hakoah and Lions.

In 1970, South Melbourne concentrated its funds on recruiting local players, having learned by its past mistakes. Centre back Steve Walker came from Lions for \$3500 and striker Jimmy Armstrong from Hakoah for \$6000. They went on to become two of South Melbourne's all-time greats. Ulysses Kokkinos returned from Greece where he had gone to try his luck. His return cost South Melbourne \$2000. Goalkeeper Tim Augar, winger Geoff Gould and full back Alan Rutherford, who went on to represent the State, were imported from England. Brocic returned to lead the club to its second successive Ampol Cup victory but he quit soon afterwards, leaving the job to former Polonia and Victoria champion Vic Janczyk. But 1970 was the year of Juventus and South Melbourne having to be content with fifth place.

South Melbourne's bid for the title in 1971 was hampered by the loss of striker Ulysses Kokkinos who returned to Greece yet again midway through



South Melbourne's long-serving centre-back Steve Walker gets up between Hakoah opponents Mike Clurey (left) and Steve Gadsby to head the ball clear.

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the season. Kokkinos started 1971 in great style scoring three goals in the Ampol Cup and two in the State team's match against Toyo Kogyo of Japan. Perhaps Kokkinos would have made that one point difference necessary for South Melbourne to win the title. Making a welcome return to the team after having spent most of the season on the sidelines was Ernie Ackerley who scored four valuable goals in the last four games... two of them against Footscray in South Melbourne's 3-2 victory against the 1971 champion. Big Tom Clarke, one of the most robust strikers in Australia, also found form towards the end of the season joining Slobodan Zoraja of J.U.S.T. as the only two players to score four in one match that year. Jim Armstrong was South's top scorer with 18. South Melbourne enjoyed a run of 13 games without defeat until the start of the State League Cup. Then after beating Melbourne for the first time in three games it drew with and thrashed Croatia 5-1. But in the final, Croatia turned the tables and playing without internationals Billy Vojtek and Jimmy Mackay Croatia snatched the Cup from South Melbourne with a 3-2 victory. Youngster John Daperis showed great form that year, Ian Marshall caught the eye of the national team selectors but didn't make it into the final selection, Jim Pyrgolios won the Bill Fleming Medal as Victorian Player of the Year and Rutherford, Bedford and goalkeepers Marko Fode and Tim Auger also were excellent.

New coach Bill Curran, who had done most of his coaching with juniors, introduced two excellent young full backs to the team in 1972, namely Giovanni Batticciotto, 16 and Bill Haasapis, 17. Peter Bourne was imported from English club, Burnley, to link up with Ian Marshall in midfield. Bourne and Marshall became key players in the Victorian State team. In his debut for South Melbourne against Juventus in the first round of the 1972 Ampol Cup, Bourne scored one of his team's three goals and was best man on the field. However, South Melbourne has an unsettled team during the Ampol Cup and finished second last in its group. George Cross, with John Gardiner in superb form, led the league for most of the 1972 season. However, Jim Armstrong was scoring goals galore, Bourne and Marshall were brilliant and midfield Bedford and Walker were impassable in defence. South Melbourne stayed with George Cross all the way and finally in the 21st round took over in first place. It managed only a scoreless draw with Juventus in the last round while George Cross beat Austria 2-1. This left the top two clubs tied on 35 points each but South Mel-

bourne took the title on goal difference. Armstrong, with 17 goals, was top scorer in the league and Bourne finished runner-up to Gardiner in the Rothmans Medal voting.

An interstate competition between the top four of Sydney and the top four of Melbourne was held at the end of 1972. The Melbourne clubs started badly but South Melbourne turned the tide by drawing 1-1 with Hakoah Sydney and thrashing APIA 7-2. Armstrong scored four goals in that match with the others coming from Walker, Jim Pizas and Marshall. But South Melbourne finished the series in only fifth position, followed by J.U.S.T., Melbourne and George Cross. The Sydney clubs occupied the top four places and Marconi won the final 1-0 against St. George with Max Tolson scoring the winning goal. Armstrong and Dave Keddie from Hakoah were joint top scorers of the series with five goals each.

In 1973, one of Victoria's foremost forwards, Bill McIntyre, switched to South Melbourne after Croatia the club he had served for so long was expelled from the P.S.F. Nat Little, a promising young forward from Altona City, also was tried out. But South Melbourne again fared badly in the pre-season Ampol Cup, losing all three of its group matches. Andy Bozikas, who later was to move to Heidelberg United, started his senior career that year. Once again, George Cross set the early pace with Joe Cunningham scoring goals at an extraordinary rate. His total of 23 for the year is still the highest of the past 10 years or more. After 21 rounds, George Cross and South Melbourne were tied on 29 points with George Cross ahead on goal average. Both clubs won their last round matches as well but J.U.S.T. had two games in hand. It won both — 1-0 against Juventus and 2-1 against Melbourne to win the title by one point.

But South Melbourne broke its run of bad luck to clinch the title in 1974. Young Arthur Xanthopoulos had by now established himself, and new men in the team were Andy Savage from Scotland, Nick Nechyvoglo from Adelaide, Ulysses Kokkinos who was back for yet another stint and occasionally Ron Smith who was later to become Victorian Director of Coaching and assistant national coach. With Armstrong scoring regularly and Bourne dominating the midfield, South Melbourne led the field for most of the season to win the championship with 33 points, four more than runner-up George Cross with J.U.S.T. third and Heidelberg United fourth.

Armstrong, with 22 goals, was top scorer in the league. The great Jimmy Mackay joined South Melbourne from Hakoah Sydney in 1975, and Chris Kalafalidis stepped up from the reserves to take a place in defence. South Melbourne reached the Ampol Cup final only to be beaten 1-0 by J.U.S.T., and Armstrong, with five goals, was equal top-scorer of the series. After the Cup, right-back Mike Pye transferred to South from Wilhelmina. Paul Murphy, who had been runner up to Armstrong in the 1974 goalscorers' stakes, was recruited from George Cross after South Melbourne's poor start to the 1975 league season. Howard Andrews from South Africa was another newcomer. Murphy failed to reproduce the goalscoring form he had shown at George Cross but South Melbourne managed to improve nevertheless. But the improvement was insufficient and

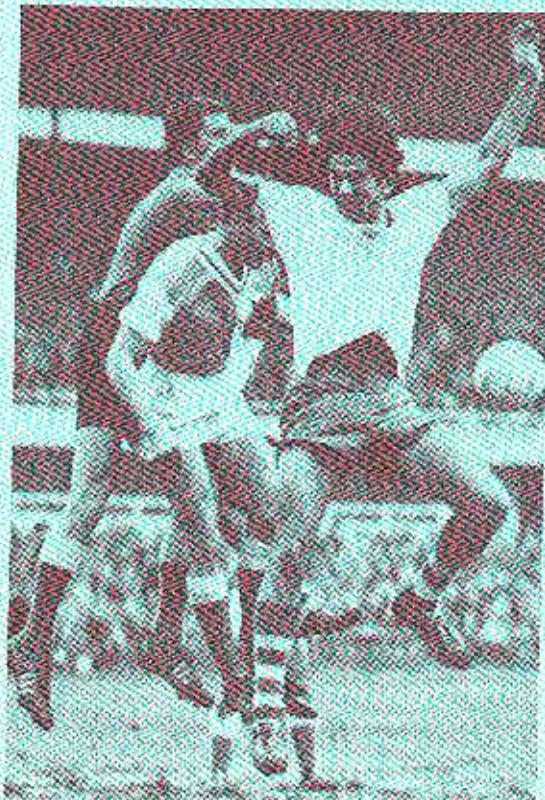
South had to be content with second place behind Heidelberg United (then called Alexander) and coached by former South boss Manny Poulakakis. However, there was consolation in the Dockerty Cup which South Melbourne won for the second year running. In 1974 it had beaten Wilhelmina 4-1 in the final with goals by Marshall, Armstrong, Nechvoglod and Bourne. In 1975 it won the Cup by beating tenacious Sunshine City 2-1 with a goal by Mackay and a penalty by Armstrong. Peter Ollerton (\$9000 from APIA) and Duncan Cummings (\$10,000 from Melbourne) were South Melbourne's star recruits early in 1976. Appropriately, the strengthened team started the season by winning the Ampol Cup beating J.U.S.T. 1-1 in the final. Ollerton notched a hat trick in that match and with a total of seven goals was top scorer of the competition. Margaritis Hagegman-



Star striker and ex-Socceroo, Peter Ollerton always stood up to pressure no matter what the opposition.

ouli established himself as left back during the season and South Melbourne went on to win the championship by a massive nine points from runner-up J.U.S.T. Mooroolbark was third and George Cross fourth. South Melbourne also claimed an unofficial Australian championship after having beaten NSW champion St. George in a home and away tie drawing 1-1 in Sydney and winning 2-1 in Melbourne with goals by Kalafatidis and Hagegmanouil . . . a victory inspired by the brilliance of Jimmy Mackay and midfield. However, South missed out in the Dockerty and State League Cups both of which were won by J.U.S.T.

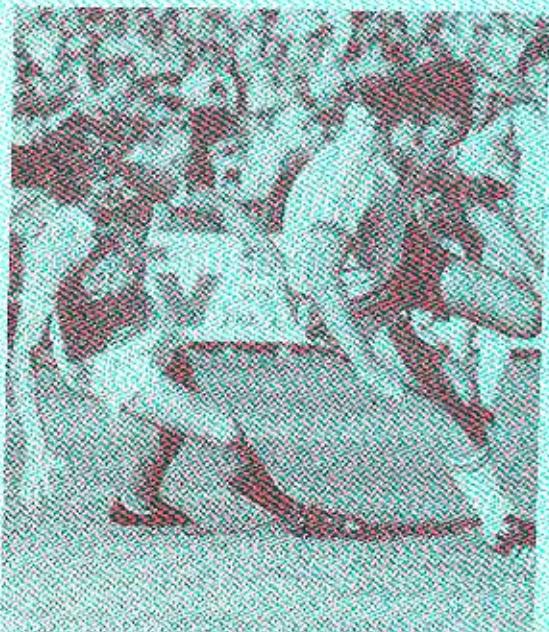
The 1977 season saw the start of the nation-wide Philips Soccer League. South Melbourne, Footscray, Heidelberg United and Mooroolbark United were among the 14 teams that made up the inaugural competition. South Melbourne transferred listed champions Steve Walker and Jim Armstrong



The great South Melbourne midfielder Boulis Kambouropoulos (ex-Olympiakos) opposes Slavia goalkeeper Ray Barotajs and centre half Billy Cook.



South Melbourne's young international and star mid-fielder, George Christopoulos, the Socceroo. Australia's national coach Rudi Gutendorf sees him as the 'Beckenbauer' of our national team.



Frank Munro (ex-Wolves) clears in front of Lloyd Hardes, with Sammy Wright looking on. Frank was unlucky in '79 but expects to have a great season in 1980.

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By LAURIE SCHWAB

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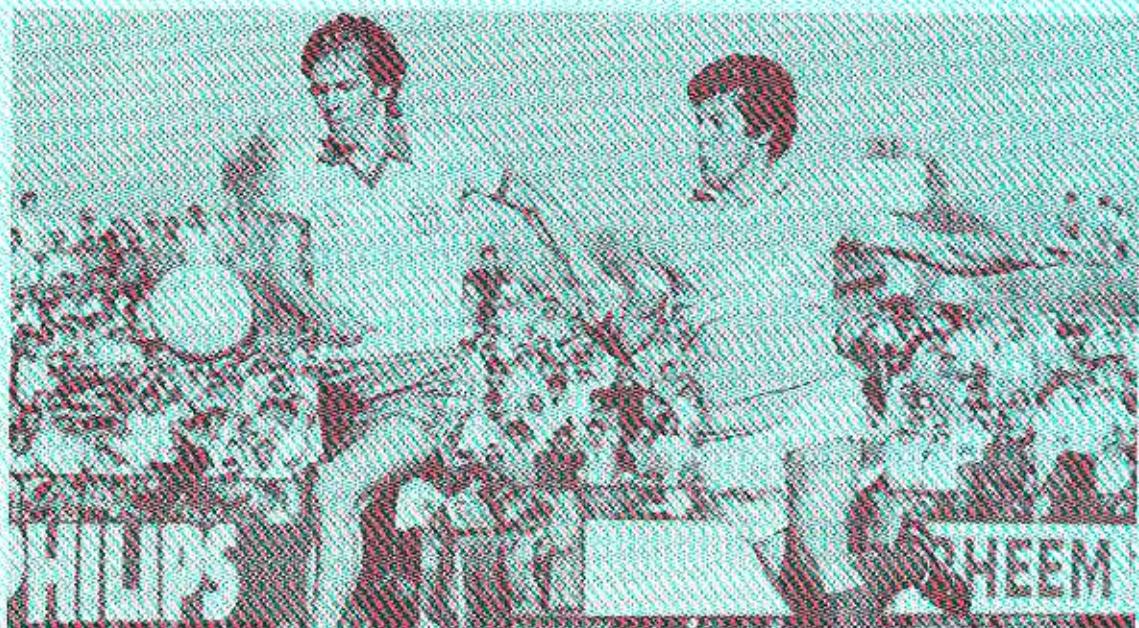
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Stalwart Stuart Baxter leaps between Frank Munro and Terry Smith at Middle Park in a game against Sydney City. On the right Sammy Wright.



Duncan Cummings in aggressive mood playing against Sydney City in 1979 at Middle Park. Duncan a favourite with South Melbourne Fans was the first Victorian player to break the \$10,000 transfer barrier.

claiming they were "too old", and it lost Peter Bourne and Jimmy Mackay. This took the back bone out of the team and not even recruits of the calibre of Jack Reilly, Ian Gibson (both from Heidelberg), Billy Rogers (APIA), Chris Kent (Wilhelmina), Anton Dogen (Hakoah), John Gardner (Ascension Croatia) and Graham French could change that. French had been brought from Mooroolbark because he had been top scorer in the State League in 1976, but he failed to live up to his reputation. And so, in the first season of the Philips League South Melbourne finished 11th.

In an effort to do better in 1978 South Melbourne appointed a new coach, Dave MacLaren, from Sydney City. MacLaren in turn recruited goal keeper John Hansen and centre-back Stuart Baxter from Sweden, Bertie Lutton for \$9500 from Sydney City, Sammy Wright from England, George Campbell from Scotland, Robby McGuinness from Sydney City and promoted George Christopoulos from the reserves. This resulted in a respectable third position on the ladder behind champion West Adelaide and Sydney City. Fourth was Marconi.

In April, 1979 the Philips League deducted three competition points from South Melbourne after four rounds of the championship. The club was found guilty of having used new left back Tony Turner in three league matches although he was not cleared by his former English club. Goalkeeper Jack Reilly switched to Juventus on a free

transfer and a week later MacLaren stood down and was replaced by former State coach Duncan McKay. Ten weeks later when the team still struggled in second last place on the ladder McKay quit and was replaced by John Margeritis from Heidelberg United. South Melbourne finished the season last and there were fears fine. It may not be readmitted to the League the following season. Those fears proved to be unfounded. Mendo Rietovski was recruited from Footscray late in 1979 and the season also saw the emergence of former Altona City player Alan Davidson as a top national star. He and George Christopoulos since have been rewarded for their efforts by gaining selection to the national team.



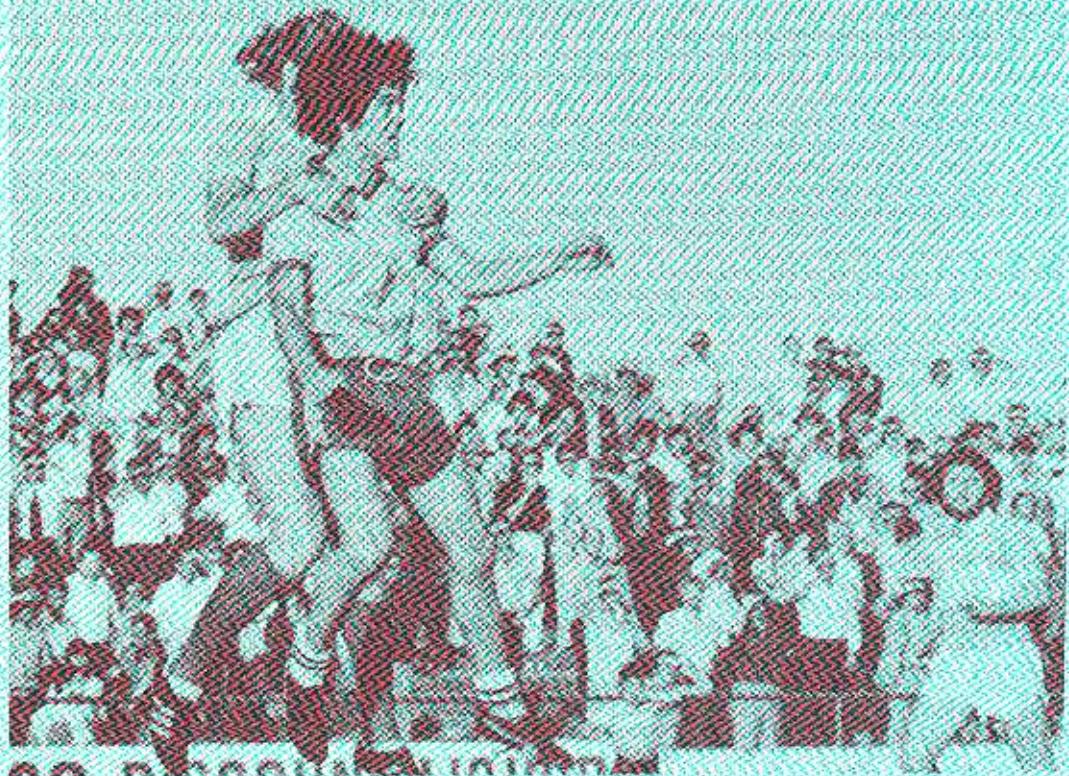
Goals came easy for star striker Jim Armstrong.

South Melbourne again has been active on the transfer market buying Branko Buljevic from Heidelberg for \$20,000 and Vince Ranton from Frankston City. Arthur Xanthopoulos and Billy Rogers were lured out of retirement and although the team made the semi-final in the 1980 Ampol Cup all concerned are confident of great improvement in the Philips League series this year. Branko Buljevic will combine up front with brilliant Alan Evans and George Campbell making a high-scoring trio this season.

The Club of today has potential champions in its many junior and youth teams as well as its Second Division team which is coached by Gedo Chikovic formerly of Footscray and a recent appointee. The foundations for the future of the team have now been laid.



Full-back Jim Maniarakis dives in front of John Bedford, South Melbourne's longest-serving player who had more than 500 games with the Club after joining from Box Hill.



Take your partners, Mark Trenter and Alan Davidson against Sydney City in 1979. Alan, another young international South Melbourne star with a great future.

ALL ENQUIRIES TO:

General Secretary, South Melbourne Soccer Club, P.O. Box 64, St Kilda West, 3183. Phone: 534 5048.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH: *Jack Riley, ex Goalkeeper, South Melbourne and former Socceroo.*

PHOTOGRAPHS: *Laurie Schwab, Soccer Action. Les Shorrock.*

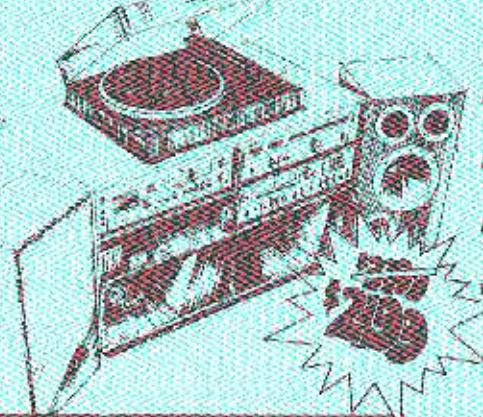
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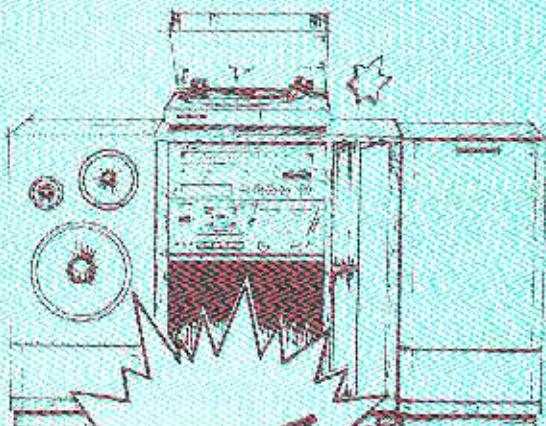
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